

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroo MATSUNAGA, et al.

Appln. No.:

Confirmation No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: November 27, 2001

Examiner:

For: VULCANIZATION PROCESS FOR PNEUMATIC TIRE AND MOLD THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please enter the following amended claim:**

9. (Amended) A vulcanization mold according to claim 7, wherein a chamfered portion or a notched portion communicating with the venting gap is arranged in a surface of at least one sub-ring among the adjoining sub-rings placed inward and outward in the radial direction contacting with the tire before the vulcanization.

**Please add the following new claim:**

--10. (New) A vulcanization mold according to claim 8, wherein a chamfered portion or a notched portion communicating with the venting gap is arranged in a surface of at least one sub-ring among the adjoining sub-rings placed inward and outward in the radial direction contacting with the tire before the vulcanization.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in this application. Claim 9 is amended to be dependent only upon claim 7, and new claim 10 is added via this Preliminary Amendment. Claim 10 is identical to claim 9, except that it depends upon claim 8.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and favorable examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees due to maintain the pendency hereof (except the Issue Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 27, 2001

**APPENDIX****VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

9. (Amended) A vulcanization mold according to claim 7 [or 8], wherein a chamfered portion or a notched portion communicating with the venting gap is arranged in a surface of at least one sub-ring among the adjoining sub-rings placed inward and outward in the radial direction contacting with the tire before the vulcanization.

**New Claim 10 is added.**